

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 COA-02 DLOS-06 SAJ-01 EB-11

OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15

ACDA-19 DRC-01 /158 W

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R 052340Z NOV 73

FM USMISSION USUN NEWYORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 792

INFO AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 4468

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IC

SUBJ: TALK WITH INDEPENDENCE PARTY LEADER

1. AT HIS REQUEST MAGNUS JONSSON, INDEPENDENCE PARTY LEADER AND FORMER FIN MIN, CALLED ON AMB. SCHAUFLE TO DISCUSS US-ICELANDIC RELATIONS. JONSSON HERE AS MEMBER GOI DELEGATION BUT WILL BE RETURNING HOMENEXT WEEK.

2. JONSSON IN EFFECT MADE STRONG APPEAL THAT USG FIND SOME MODIFICATIONS IN EXISTING KEFLAVIK BASE ARRANGEMENTS WHICH WOULD ENSURE RETENTION OF BASE BUT ALSO HELP DEFUSE OPPOSITION TO US BASE.

3. IN ORDER PROVIDE BACKGROUND JONSSON POINTED OUT ALL PARTIES SUPPORT GOI ON FISHING CONTROVERSY ALTHOUGH THERE IS OFTEN DISAGREEMENT ON TACTICS. IN THIS RESPECT HE STATED THAT UK ATTITUDE AND ACTIONS IN COD WAR REPRESENT BIGGER DANGER TO CONTINUED EXISTENCE US BASE THAN DOES DOMESTIC OPPOSITION TO BASE ITSELF. GOVERNMENT HANDLING OF FISHING DISPUTE IS NOT TOUGH ENOUGH FOR COMMUNISTS WHO, HOWEVER, HAVE NOW TURNED ATTENTION TO KEFLAVIK QUESTION WITH SOME EFFECT. BASICALLY ARGUMENTS TURN ON

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(A) NATURAL RESENTMENT OVER PRESENCE ANY FOREIGN TROOPS

AND (B) US-SOVIET DETENTE WHICH OBVIATES NECESSITY FOR
BASE.

4. JONSSON VIEW IS THAT BASE IS NECESSARY NOT JUST FOR
US OR NATO BUT FOR ICELANDIC DEFENSE. IN THIS CONNECTION
HE ALSO CITED NORWEGIAN MILITARY CONCERN THAT BASE
MIGHT BE CLOSED. HE DOES NOT KNOW WHAT PRI MIN AND FON MIN
HAVE IN MIND IN UPCOMING NEGOTIATIONS. HE EXPECTS THAT
RELEVANT PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE WILL BE INFORMED
EVENTUALLY BUT HE WANTED TO SPEAK TO RESPONSIBLE US OFFICIAL
TO MAKE HIS PARTY'S VIEW CLEAR. HE ADDED THAT RESULTS
COULD IN PART HINGE ON ATTITUDE OF SOME INDIVIDUAL PROGRESSIVE
PARTY DEPUTIES WHO MIGHT MAKE UP OWN MINDS ON
THIS ISSUE.

5. THEREFORE HE HOPED THAT USG COULD ACCEPT OR INDEED
PUT FORWARD PROPOSALS TO MODIFY PRESENT BASE AGREEMENT -
PERHAPS IN TERMS OF NUMBER OF PERSONNEL OR LENGTH OF
AGREEMENT - WHICH WOULD HELP HIS PARTY, SOCIAL DEMOCRATS
AND SOME INDIVIDUAL PROGRESSIVES ASSURE RETENTION OF BASE.

6. AMB. SCHAUFLELE SAID HE NOT PERSONALLY FAMILIAR WITH
RAMIFICATIONS OF SITUATION AND THEREFORE WELCOMED JONSSON'S
EXPOSITION WHICH WULD BE FORWARDED TO DEPT. IN REGARD TO
DETENTE HE NOTED THAT RELAXATION OF TENSIONS IN SOME AREAS
SHOULD NOT LULL ANYONE INTO BELIEVING THAT THERE HAS
BEEN A BASIC CHANGE IN SOVIET POLICY OR THAT NEED FOR
COMMON DEFENSE ARRANGEMENT IN ANY WAY MITIGATED.
INVOKING TRADITIONALLY CLOSE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN US
AND ICELAND SCHAUFLELE SAID HE WAS SURE THAT US NEGOTIATORS
WOULD BE GLAD TO HAVE JONSSON'S VIEWS AND WOULD SURELY
TAKE INTO ACCOUNT OUR COMMON NEEDS AND INTERESTS IN
TALKS IN REYKJAVIK.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 NOV 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973USUNN04468
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: USUN NEW YORK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731154/aaaabnhb.tel
Line Count: 95
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 SEP 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13-Sep-2001 by martinml>; APPROVED <11-Dec-2001 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TALK WITH INDEPENDENCE PARTY LEADER
TAGS: PFOR, IC
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005